

Nebraska Sierran

Publication of the Sierra Club's Missouri Valley Group, Nebraska Chapter

September 2009

<http://nebraska.sierraclub.org>

Vol. 36, No. 3

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

Outing at Historic Fort Rob, Museum

By Clyde Anderson
Chapter Treasurer

The Nebraska Chapter is sponsoring a fun, educational weekend, Sept. 5 and 6, at western Nebraska's premier state park, Fort Robinson. Located 3 miles west of Crawford, Ft. Rob has more than 22,000 acres of exquisite Pine Ridge scenery, compelling old west history, exceptional lodging, loads of fun-time activities, scenic camping and the park's own buffalo and longhorn herds. This historic outpost served from the days of the Indian Wars until after World War II. This was the site of the 1879 Cheyenne Outbreak and the death of famed Sioux Chief Crazy Horse. Over the years, the fort served the Red Cloud Indian Agency, as a cavalry remount station, K-9 dog training center, POW camp and beef research station.

The State Historical Society operates a museum and many restored or reconstructed exhibit buildings to interpret the Fort's history. Visit the new exhibit *The Clash of the Mammoths* at the Trailside Museum of Natural History. A fossil find unlike any other in the world! The Trailside Museum interprets the geology and natural history of the region.

For Saturday and Sunday nights, Sept. 5 & 6, Sierra Club has reserved two lodging

units in the former officer quarters: one for 10 adults and one for 12. Both have kitchens and sitting rooms plus large porches facing the parade grounds. Alternatives to these accommodations are available in the nearby campground and in local motels.

Many activities are planned. Saturday morning we will explore the historic sites in the park followed by lunch and an afternoon hike on a section of the White River Trail. The trail was constructed on the abandoned roadbed of the Chicago & Northwestern Cowboy Line. After Ft. Rob's famous buffalo stew dinner, Chapter ExCom member Suzy Schulz will provide a program on global warming. Sunday morning will include a visit to nearby Toadstool Park which the Nebraska Chapter has recommended for Wilderness protection. Plans for other weekend activities are being developed.

To reserve a bed in the officer quarters, a payment of \$20 is required by Saturday, Aug. 22, which is non-refundable after that date unless there is someone from the waiting list who takes the reservation. Please make checks payable to Nebraska Sierra Club and mail to Clyde Anderson, Treasurer, 7020 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132-2600.

Chapter Seeks Excom Candidates

By Glen Murray

The Bylaws of the Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club require that members of the Executive Committee (ExCom) be elected during the fourth quarter of the calendar year. In preparation for the elections, the ExCom has appointed a nominating committee consisting of

Glen Murray (308) 381-1397, Albert Lierz (402) 453-2933 and Brittany Crawford. The nominating committee must attempt to nominate at least two more candidates than the number of open seats on the ExCom up for election. This year five seats on the ExCom will be up for election, so the nominating

committee must attempt to nominate at least seven people for the election. Anyone interested in running for election to the ExCom should contact any member of the nominating committee named above.

An alternate method for being listed on the election ballot is the petition

See Candidates, page 4

September Program: Tour Under the Sink Facility

By Mary Green
Program Director

The Missouri Valley Group September program will feature a tour of Omaha's household hazardous waste collection facility, Under the Sink.

Household hazardous wastes include lawn chemicals, paint thinners, oven cleaners, drain openers, insecticides/herbicides/fungicides, rat poisons, mercury thermometers, etc. The aver-

Sierra Club Program

Thursday Sept. 24, 6 p.m. (Note earlier-than-normal time)

Tour of Under the Sink Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
4001 S. 120th St.

(between W. Center Road and L Street, on the east side of 120th)

The public is welcome at Sierra Club's educational events.

age U.S. household produces or generates more than 20 pounds of household hazardous waste per year.

Household hazardous wastes that are disposed of in landfills can cause groundwater pollution. These materials can pose a threat to the public's health and safety. For these reasons, the city of Omaha opened Under the Sink in June 2005. The drop-off service is free to Douglas and Sarpy county residents.

For our visit, we'll view a power-point presentation on the history and operations of the facility, followed by a half-hour tour, where we'll see the various processing

See Disposal page 2

Activities in Nebraska Badlands for Labor Day Outing

By Caryl Guisinger

ExCom board members and their families receive a "special" deal when attending Ft. Robinson's Labor Day weekend. It is FREE! Not only do you not have to pay \$20 for accommodations, you will receive mileage reimbursement at \$0.20 per mile. You get paid to have fun!

Are you ready to explore western Nebraska to find out what Crazy Horse, mastodons, K-9 corps, WWII POWs, and the cavalry all have in common? By exploring Fort Robinson and its surrounding areas, you will find out and be totally amazed by its rich history.

The area is bursting in the Cenozoic, or strange-mammal fossils such as huge mastodons, camels, pre-horses, rhinos, bear-dogs, huge wild pigs, saber tooth tigers, and so on. The Hudson-Ming natural history museum on the Fort grounds has a surprisingly fine display about these creatures, including the remains of two bull mammoths who died battling with their massive tusks locked (the only place on Earth where such a find exists).

Sunday, Sierran explorers will enjoy a guided tour of West Ash Valley's aspen stand. From there, we will move on to Toadstool. Exploring Toadstool Geologic Park will be a special treat as we will be guided by geologist David Nixon who will explain the stratigraphy of Toadstool, which is how the various formations were formed by the forces of nature over millions of years. At Toadstool, look for sandstone channel deposits that include the fossilized footprints of rhinos, giant pigs, camels, and birds. Or you can climb in the

Nebraska Badlands and find 30-million-year-old turtles! And, a must for tired hikers ... the Chuckwagon Buffalo Stew Cookout with its sing-along around the campfire. Following the terrific food and sing-a-long, Suzy Schulz and Buffalo Bruce will present the latest on global warming and climate change.

Sierrans don't have to rush back to their busy city life Monday morning. They can spend the morning attending the ExCom meeting. You never know when a topic will come up that sparks your interest!

Planned accommodations at Fort Robinson are very reasonable - Free for ExCom members and their families - for both Saturday, September 5 and Sunday, September 6. Sierra Club has reserved two lodging units in the former officer quarters: Adobe 7A with beds for 10 adults and Adobe 7B with beds for 12. Both units have kitchens and sitting rooms, plus large porches facing the parade grounds, and both single and bunk beds. Alternatives to these barracks-style accommodations are available: 125 sites in the nearby camp-

ground or there are motels in Crawford.

To reserve a bed in Adobe 7A or B, contact Clyde Anderson by Saturday, August 22 at 7020 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132-2600. Send your mileage (at 20 cents per mile) to Clyde for reimbursement following the weekend.

Be sure to pack your hiking shoes and water bottle!

Fort Robinson Schedule

Saturday afternoon - historical/soldier/indian museum adults \$1, kids free (ExCom not free)

Hudson-Ming historical museum Adults \$3 Kids free (ExCom not free)

Sunday morning - West Ash Valley: aspen stand guided tour

Sunday afternoon - Toadstool Geologic Park: guided tour with Geologist David Nixon

Sunday late afternoon - Chuckwagon Buffalo Stew Cookout

Sunday evening - Global Warming and Climate Change: Suzy Schulz & Buffalo Bruce

Monday - 8 a.m. ExCom meeting.

Continued from page 1

Program to Tour Disposal Facility

areas and equipment used.

Under the Sink also has a store, called The ReStore, which is stocked with items in good condition for reuse. All items are free; however, there is a 50-pound weight limit per day. All items must be weighed and a release form completed before leaving the facility.

Please join us for an interesting and informative visit to Under the Sink. Sierra Club programs are free and open to the public. For more information contact Mary Green at 556-1830, or mary.green@nebraska.sierraclub.org

Sierra Club educational programs are free and open to the public.

Chapter Executive Committee 2009

Chapter Mailing Address: P. O. Box 4664, Omaha, NE 68104

Chapter Chair, Council Delegate, *Dick Boyd, Lincoln, (402) 484-0446.

Vice-Chair, *JoEllen Polzien, Lincoln, (402) 483-1112.

Secretary, *Wendy Harrison, Omaha, (402) 415-3248.

Treasurer, Grants Chair, Clyde Anderson, Omaha, (402) 932-7225.

Fundraising Chair, *Ken Haar, Malcolm, (402) 796-2047.

Political, Legislative Chair *Tim Rinne, Lincoln, (402) 475-7616.

Membership Chair, *Mark Weihe, Lincoln, (402) 420-1615.

Chapter Webmaster, *Justin Kemering, Omaha, (402) 770-8657.

At Large members: *Roy Guisinger, Belgrade, (308) 357-1000; *Mitch Paine, Lincoln, *Suzy Schulz, Lincoln, *Linda Deeds, North Platte, (308) 534-9501.*

Conservation, CAFO Chair, Glen Murray, Grand Island, (308) 381-1397.

Bluestem Delegate, *Foster Collins, Lincoln, (402) 420-2101.

Cottonwood Delegate, *Stan Crawford, Harvard, (402) 772-8421.

Missouri Valley Delegate, *Steve Andrews, Omaha, (402) 933-3059.

Platte Valley Delegate, *Tom Brown, Hershey, (308) 368-5256.

Alternative Energy Chair, Larry Burks, (402) 571-5124.

Missouri River Committee, George Cunningham, Omaha, (402) 561-9422.

Outings Chair, John Calandra, Papillion, (402) 991-8314.

Newsletter Editor, Clayton Brant, 2901 A St. #104, Lincoln, NE 68510; (402) 475-9951.

Cool Cities Conservation Organizer, Camellia Watkins, Omaha Sierra Club Office, 5170 Leavenworth, Omaha, NE 68106; (402) 551-9480.

Chapter Lobbyist, Kenneth Winston, Lincoln, NE 68508; (402) 476-6583.

Chapter Seeks Better System for Member Communications

By Clyde Anderson
Chapter Treasurer

Overhaul Website, Newsletters and E-mail

Members of the new Forms Committee committee have been meeting monthly via telephone conference for several months now.

Websites: Members have complained that our website has very little on it and some information on it is always out of date. The chapter contracted with web developer, Justin Kemerling, to overhaul the Nebraska Chapter portion of the web. Justin has redesigned the chapter website using WordPress, a freeware web program. He had to move the web to a new site because the national Sierra Club does not support WordPress. The new site is much more attractive. It is arranged in a blog format with one narrow column in the middle and the last article posted at the top and dated by posting. It has been regularly updated with news relative to our lobbying at the Nebraska State Legislature.

The Missouri Valley portion is still in the old format and resides on the National Sierra Club server.

But the format is not the main issue. Not removing outdated material or moving it to archives and the lack of news, photos, events, take action forms, etc. is the real issue. What's critical is developing an active website editorial group of volunteers to service the website with lots of up-

to-date conservation material.

Newsletters:

The Chapter publishes a newsletter quarterly (The Nebraska Sierran edited by Clayton Brant) and mails it to its 2,000-plus members while Missouri Valley publishes a newsletter (The Missouri Valley Sierran edited by Scott Kemper) 10 times a year and mails it to its 1,000-plus members. These newsletters are usually mailed together four times a year to save postage. It will be financially difficult to continue publishing 14 newsletters a year. It has been proposed that the two newsletters be merged into one that publishes six times a year with e-mailed monthly newsletters taking up the slack.

E-Newsletters:

Members discussed possibly e-mailing an electronic newsletter vs. the paper copy we currently publish. We cannot send an e-mailed newsletter with photos, color, etc. using HELEN, our database. It only supports black and white text -- no graphics. We have to take the list from HELEN and then use another program for the e-mail newsletter. Sierra Club recommends "Convio" for this purpose.

When HELEN or Convio is updated so is the other one. Sierra Club provides training and support for Convio. Its cost for a chapter our size is \$150 per month. Albert Lierz (Missouri Valley webmaster) emphasized that we have to avoid being labeled as spammers when emailing to many members. An e-mail manager (such as

Convio) is used to avoid this problem. Lierz strongly urged the adoption of Convio and placed its cost into his recommended budget. Since Convio is meant to be used for local fundraising during March it should be a good investment, according to Lierz.

We are not certain how long it would take to get Convio (or a similar system) up and running so Clyde Andersen (Chapter Treasurer and MoValley Secretary) suggested we have a pdf copy of the newsletter available for download from the web or as an email attachment in the interim. Scott Kemper already posts a pdf copy of the Missouri Valley Sierran to the MoValley website each month after he publishes it.

HELEN (our database). It contains all Nebraska Sierra Club members plus others who have attended our events. We can email only about 800 of our 2,000-plus members from it currently because many do not list an email address. We can telephone almost 1,400 of our 2,000 members from its list. We can contact 2,000 members by mail. HELEN contains information on the preferences and past events of members so they may be contacted based on this information. HELEN also contains contact information on several thousand Nebraskans who are not Sierra Club members but have shown interest in conservation issues. This group includes past members and those in political or other influential positions.

See Communication page 6

The Missouri Valley Sierran

is published about 10 times a year by the Missouri Valley Group-Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club

Send articles and correspondence for the newsletter to:

MoValSierraNews@yahoo.com
Phone: 402-981-7819

Mail: Missouri Valley Group – Sierra Club

P.O. Box 4664,
Omaha, NE 68104.

The Omaha office is at

5170 Leavenworth St.
Omaha, NE 68106.
Phone: 402-551-9480
Fax 402-551-9490.

Address changes for members should be sent to:

Sierra Club Member Services
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

The Sierra Club's main national office is at:

85 Second Street, 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: (415) 977-5635.

Web sites:

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org>
Local: <http://nebraska.sierraclub.org/movalley>

Chapter Chair's Corner: Global Warming Danger

By Dick Boyd
Chapter Chair

I recently read a book entitled "The Global Warming Survival Kit" by an Englishman named Brian Clegg. His information is very important because we all have a dog in this fight!

The vast majority of scientists recognize that there is global warming and that it is strongly influenced by human activity. It is estimated that by the end of this century it will be the hottest it has been in 2 million years! At some of our ages the above statement is of limited concern but many of us have concerns about our grandkids!

There has been much talk about methods to prevent climate change but many scientists are of the opinion that the steps are too little and too late! These scientists consider the fact that the U.S. is the biggest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. If our emissions were reduced by 90 percent by 2030 (which is not realistic, and no politicians are suggesting that great of a reduction),

the expanding economies of China and India will only add to the greenhouse gas and much of our country's reduction will be of limited overall value.

Many of the meetings this past year have been about water issues. The statement has been made that water will be a larger problem than oil. Mr. Clegg indicates that based upon current predictions, by the end of the century the tropics will have droughts 13 times greater than experienced now! The U.N. 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that by the last quarter of this century between 1.1 billion and 3.2 billion people will have long-term water-scarcity problems. When this happens the people of the drought areas are faced with the difficult choice of emigration or death. Some African countries already have water issues at this time.

As a side point, Steve Thomas, former regional staff director for the Sierra Club, mentioned on a field trip that

the western states have a major problem with the pine beetle pest in pine trees. The pine beetles now have two annual hatches rather than one because of global warming and the destruction is out of control.

The book mentions that the combination of the increase in temperature and the increase of the pests (pine beetles) is having a devastating effect on Canadian forests. The government estimates that 80 percent of the pine trees in British Columbia will be gone by 2013. On our annual fishing trip to Northern Saskatchewan near Deschambault Lake, our fishing group has noted many similarly destroyed pine trees.

Besides the melting of the Siberian permafrost, the delicate balance of the coastal life will be devastated. Much has been written but it needs to be repeated.

Many of the world's cities; New York, London, Miami, Tampa, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, and others are at risk of destruction by slight increases in sea level. An increase in the temperature of just a few degrees is enough to increase the sea level up to a meter. Many low-lying countries will have major problems with the increase in sea levels. In 1998, a storm surge in Bangladesh inundated 65 per

cent of that country! What will happen in the Netherlands with a 5-meter sea-level rise? The U.S. could have more than 50 percent of the land covered by water! Maps indicate that a 5 meter sea-level rise will have major damage along the eastern coast from Long Island, N.Y., to Key West, Fla., as well as Gulf of Mexico coastal cities.

My wife and I will be in North Carolina soon. I will be working the Jr. Olympics Track and Field Championship in Greensboro, and we are going five days prior to the meet to visit the area from Virginia Beach to Wilmington, N.C. This is often referred to as the Outer Banks. If there is a 5-meter rise in sea level, all this area would be under water, possibly as far as 100 miles inland. It will interesting asking the local people what they think about global warming and sea-level rise. In a future article I will cover the visitation to the involved area.

Thank you for your help with the Sierra Club environment Climate Recovery Partnership Campaigns which are: 1-Beyond Coal; 2-Resilient Habitants; 3-Clean Energy Solutions; 4-Federal and International Climate; 5-Green Transportation; and 6-Safeguarding Communities.

Continued from page 1 Candidates Needed

method. Any member of the chapter may be proposed for election upon the written request of 15 members of the chapter, provided the proposed nominee gives his/her consent to being a candidate. Petitions for nomination signed by 15 or more members should also be submitted to any member of the nominating committee. For further information, please contact members of the nominating committee.

New-Member Orientation

Saturday, Sept. 19th. 10 a.m.-11 a.m., Sierra Club office, 5170 Leavenworth St., Omaha

Contact Albert Lierz, at albert_liertz@yahoo.com or (402) 453-2933

RSVP would be great but not necessary to attend

After orientation attend the **Membership-Media Committee Meeting** at 11 a.m.



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Go Green for Real Life on Green Homes Tour

The 2009 Green Homes Tour, presented by the Green Omaha Coalition and the US Green Building Council, Nebraska Flatwater Chapter, is an opportunity for metro area residents to learn how to green their living environments.

The event will showcase four west Omaha homes and each will feature a different theme.

Three of the homes are undergoing a series of green home improvement projects. "Before" and "after" data on

energy use will be available. The fourth home on the tour is a new Energy Star home.

Free shuttle service to the tour homes will be available at Village Pointe.

New to this year's tour is an information fair at Village Pointe in conjunction with its weekly farmers market. Vendors will include area businesses and nonprofits interested in green living.

The tour will be held Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9:00 am to noon. Admission is \$5

per person. Proceeds will help fund programs and activities of the Green Omaha Coalition.

Tickets can be purchased at each of the tour homes or the information fair.

A map of the home locations will be available at the information fair for those who need to take their own transportation between homes.

- Indoor Air Quality & Energy Efficiency Home, 1804 N. 155th Ave.

- Materials & Maintenance Home, 1422 N. 164th St.

- Family Lifestyle & Energy Efficiency Home, 606 S. 178th St.

- New Energy Star Home, 810 S. 188th Ave.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009, 9 a.m. - noon, Village Pointe Farmers Market, 168th Street & W. Dodge Road

Can't make the tour but want to find out more about how to green your home? Download the checklist here: <http://greenomahacoalition.org/documents/For%20Sale%20Homeowner%20Checklist.pdf>

Bills Approved, Denied by Unicameral Good for Sierra Club

By Ken Winston
Sierra Club Lobbyist

The Nebraska Chapter of the Sierra Club had a very successful legislative session in 2009. The primary reason for our success was the election of ExCom Member Ken Haar to the Legislature in November. His advocacy for issues that the Club supports combined with my work as our lobbyist and Brittany Crawford's work with the activist network has opened up several avenues and continues to provide openings for long-term success on environmental issues. The Legislature passed

the first state-wide net metering bill, LB 436, which was introduced and shepherded through the process by Ken Haar. Sen. Haar was also instrumental in shaping the amendments that led to the passage of LB 561, which removes barriers to large wind development in the state and provides new methods of financing renewable energy projects.

Two bills that would have had a detrimental effect on the Niobrara River were successfully stopped: LB 438, which would have made it more difficult to obtain instream flow rights, and LB 666, which

made it more difficult for NRDs to develop trails. We also were part of a coalition that weakened the negative effects of LB 56, which was intended to reduce the ability of DEQ to penalize bad livestock operators. We were involved in the process that led to improvements of LB 160, the NRD bonding bill.

In the interim study process, I have been named as one of the contact people for the technical review of environmental impacts of wind development projects and transmission lines, which is part of LR 83. I have been contacted by several individuals and environmental organizations about this study. I am also working with Sen. Haar and other senators on a variety of the other topics, including developing more solar energy in Nebraska and finding ways to fund energy efficiency projects.

Railfest in N.Platte Site of ProRail Meeting

By Clyde Anderson


Transportation Issues Chair

ProRail Nebraska is a not-for-profit organization founded to inform the citizens of Nebraska about the benefits of railroads and to promote balanced, efficient transportation - both freight and passenger - in Nebraska and the nation.

ProRail Nebraska (PRN) and Sierra Club share a goal of advocating better public ground trans-

portation to offer travelers an energy-efficient alternative to private automobiles. In addition to being Sierra Club's Transportation Issues Chair, I am a PRN Board member.


PRN will be holding its quarterly meeting in conjunction with North Platte's Railfest Friday through Sunday, Sept. 18-20. See <http://site.-nprailfest.com> for a list




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Continued from page 3

Communications Area Needs Variety of Volunteer Efforts

Membership Survey

Currently Brittany Crawford, lobbyist Ken Winston's legislative aide, is phoning members to elicit e-mail addresses of Nebraska Sierra Club members and to see if they will switch to an e-mail newsletter. Tim Rinne, legislative committee chair, indicated she would phone all 2,000 members. Clyde Anderson, Treasurer, said we have to make the calls "educational" if possible to get reimbursed by National Sierra Club.

Email List-serves:

There are several Nebraska e-mail "list-serv" groups. Listservs are groups of e-mail addresses, and a member of a listserv can send an e-mail to all members of the group by using just the listserv e-mail address. Here is a list of the Nebraska Chapter listservs:

- Missouri Valley Group Leaders - ne-mo-valley-excom@lists.sierraclub.org
- Bluestem Group Leaders - ne-bluestem-excom@lists.sierraclub.org
- NE Chapter Leaders - ne-excom-oth-

ers@lists.sierraclub.org

NE Chapter ExCom (voting members) - ne-excom@lists.sierraclub.org

Nebraska Environmental Forum - ne-forum@lists.sierraclub.org

NE Chapter Outings News - ne-outings-news@lists.sierraclub.org

Some suggested that adding new list-serve groups for our Nebraska members is a good way to foster communications on local conservation issues.

Staffing Communication

Projects:

Since the Nebraska Sierra Club no longer has any local staff and is losing its Omaha office at the end of September due to budget shortfall, Albert said the biggest issue is to recruit lots of volunteers who send articles, events and photos to be put on the website.

He favors a team reviewing, editing and posting these materials to the website rather than having the contributors directly post them. He believes he can recruit a good web-editing team to do this. The

more content that is on the website, the more from which the e-newsletter team and the hard copy newsletter team can choose.

Committee Members:

Roy Guisinger, Foster Collins, Clayton Brant, Steve Andrews, Clyde Anderson, Scott Kemper, Albert Lierz, Justin Kemerling, and Brittany Crawford.

Proposed Budget:

- Website \$400 yr/\$33mo
- E-Newsletter \$1,800 yr/\$150mo
- Newsletter \$3,600 yr/\$600edition
- Two-Way Com \$200 yr/
- TOTAL \$6,000 yr

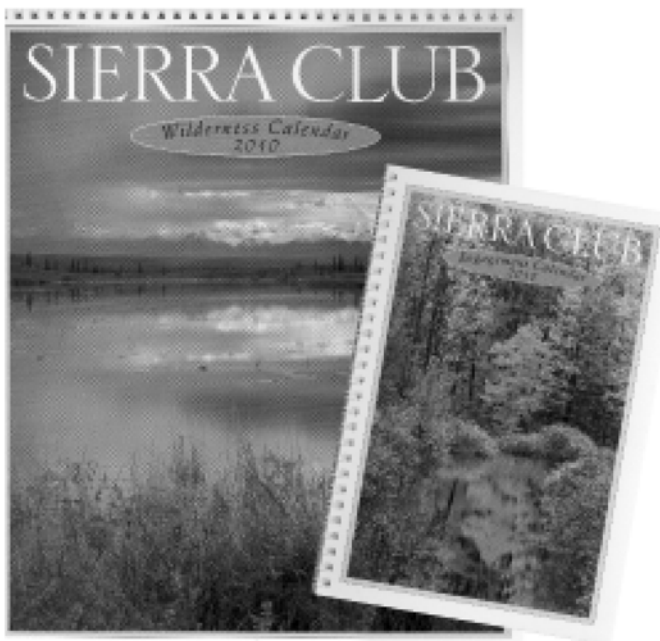
Closing the Missouri Valley Group newsletter and shifting its \$4,000 annual budget to the combined budget above is critical to this plan.

The four media listed above should do an even better job for MoValley than its current newsletter alone can do. Special e-mail flyers can be sent advertising group-level programs such as those that Missouri Valley conducts monthly.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club 2010 Calendars



	Quantity	Total
Order Form		
Engagement Calendar	\$14.	_____
Wilderness Calendar	\$13	_____
	Subtotal	_____
Outside Omaha - Shipping per order		\$4
	Grand Total	_____

Send order form and check (made out to the Sierra Club) and to

Valerie Murray,
1935 S. 37th St.,
Omaha, NE 68105

or call her at (402) 345-5668

Calendars should be sent to:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Looking for Reporters, Photographers, Editors

By Albert Lierz
MoValley Webmaster

Review our communications model below, and join one of the four teams needed to make the model work. Help us reach out to thousands of Nebraskans on global warming and other conservation issues through effective media.

Communication System Model

1. Website - weekly (staffed by Website Editorial Team) - Volunteer reporters/photographers supply the articles, photos, upcoming events, etc. Materials are e-mailed to the Web Editor Team, which edits and posts them by midnight Saturday each week.

2. E-Newsletter - monthly (staffed by E-Newsletter Editorial Team) - All material for this e-mailed newsletter is selected from the website and digested into a summary format (about 50 percent text, 50 percent photos/graphics is recommended). Each digested

article references the full-size article on the website and provides a link to it. Mailing is managed with a contact manager program.

3. Newsletter - bi-monthly, hard copy (staffed by Newsletter Editorial Team) - All material for this newsletter is selected from the website and digested into a summary format. Each digested article references the full-size article on the website.

4. Two-Way Communications - ongoing (staffed by Interactive Communications Team) - Creates forums and blogs on our website, e-mail list-serve groups, social networking, teleconferences, would be used to involve our members and others interested in conservation in interactive communication on critical conservation issues.

E-mail me at albert_lierz@yahoo.com to join our effort or for additional information.

Continued from page 5 Railfest Touring U.P. Bailey Yard

of Railfest events, which include free tours of Union Pacific's huge Bailey Yard, the world's largest rail freight terminal.

The Depot Restaurant at 520 N. Jeffers St. in North Platte will be the site of ProRail's meeting, beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday ending with lunch. Guest speakers include Ray Lineweber, State Legislative Director for the United Transportation Union, Jeff Meyer, Union Pacific's Amtrak Operations Officer, and Roger Clark, regional director for the National Association of Railroad Passengers.

There will also be a presentation about a study to extend Amtrak passenger service north from Kansas City to Omaha via St. Joseph, Falls City, and Nebraska City. On Aug. 5 the

Mo. Highways and Transportation Commission approved 11 rail projects totaling \$201.3 million to upgrade rail passenger service between St. Louis and Kansas City. These projects are a partnership with Union Pacific and are being submitted to the Federal Railroad Administration for part of the \$8 billion in stimulus money available for high-speed rail projects. The Missouri Chapter - Sierra Club supports improved service in this corridor.

The meeting is free, and the inexpensive lunch is optional.

For more information, contact Clyde Anderson at (402) 932-7225 or e-mail clydelanderson@cox.net. PRN's web site is <http://www.trainweb.org/pro-railnebraska>.

Halloween Last Day for Office

By Clyde Anderson
Group Secretary

Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign Coordinator Cammy Watkins, who is based at the Sierra Club office at 5170 Leavenworth St. in Omaha, announced that she will begin working out of her home effective Nov. 1, 2009.

Like most nonprofit organizations, Sierra Club has experienced a decline in donations and other income during these severe economic times. Therefore, it is necessary to close the Omaha office when the lease expires at the end of October. Although the Nebraska Chapter and Missouri Valley Group share the facilities with Cammy, they could not afford to fund the office on their own.

Although some of the files and materials can be stored at Cammy's home, volunteers are being sought who have dry

storage areas available for storage of Club supplies. In late October there will be a moving party to relocate all of the Club property from the office. Check the October MVG newsletter or web site <http://nebraska.sierclub.org/movalley> for details.

Although the monthly indoor MVG programs will remain at First United Methodist Church, the monthly Executive Committee meetings will relocate beginning in November. Leaders are looking at several alternative meeting sites. If you have a location to suggest, please contact Steve Andrews at 556-9288 or email steve.andrews20@gmail.com.

Calls to the Omaha Sierra Club phone number (402) 551-9480 will be directed to a phone mail service that will be checked regularly by volunteers. Mail should be sent to Post Office Box 4664, Omaha, NE 68104-4664.

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September 2009

Events

Thursday, Aug. 20, 10:30 a.m., UNL Offers Working Organic Farm Tours, Forestry Research Area at UNL's Agricultural Research and Development Center near Mead

Sunday Aug. 23, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., City Sprouts' Seventh Annual Gala, Lauritzen Gardens, 100 Bancroft St., Victory through Vegetables, Tickets \$25 each, or \$200 for a table of 10, Silent auction, music by the Prairie Gators, cash bar. Auction donations, sponsors, and volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Gala committee chair Norita Matt at: nmatt@ci.omaha.ne.us or call her at (402) 670-9464.

Wednesday, Aug. 26, Green Neighborhood Council Meeting, the South Omaha library, 2808 Q St.

Sunday, August 30, 7 a.m. on, Wachiska Audubon August BirdQuest, Oak Lake parking lot east of the lake at W. Charleston Street and Sun Valley Blvd. in Lincoln, to caravan and carpool from there to the birding destinations. If you have questions call John Carlini at 475-7275.

Sept. 5 & 6, Nebraska Chapter meeting on

Labor Day weekend at Ft. Robinson in the Nebraska Sandhills To reserve a bed, a payment of \$20 is required by Saturday, Aug. 22. It is non-refundable after that date unless there is someone from the waiting list who takes the reservation. Please make checks payable to Nebraska Sierra Club and mail to Clyde Anderson, Treasurer, 7020 Burt St., Omaha, NE 68132-2600. Check the web site, <http://sierranebraska.org> for updates as plans develop over the summer.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Green Home Tour, Volunteers needed to work in two-hour blocks of time to help guide visitors through the homes and keep an eye on the house. Transportation to event will be provided by shuttles from Village Pointe in Chief buses. Contact Nick Randall at nick@elementdist.com.

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9 to 11 a.m., Adopt a Stream & Clean Elmwood Park, contact trilety@hotmail.com or 981-5945

Saturday, Sept. 19th. 10 a.m.-11 a.m., New-Member Orientation, Sierra Club office, 5170 Leavenworth St. Contact Albert Lierz, at albert_liertz@yahoo.com or (402) 453-2933.

RSVP would be great but not necessary to attend. After orientation attend the Membership-Media Committee Mtg at 11 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-noon, Green Hearts Parent & Child Workshop on Nature Play, Omaha children's museum, 500 S. 20th St.

Friday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, Soup Up Your Winter, UNL Douglas/Sarpy Extension, 8015 W. Center Road, cost is \$15, register and pay by Oct. 5, Send name, address, phone, payment to UNL Extension Douglas/Sarpy County, Attn: name of class, 8015 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE 68124

Thursday, Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Bread Making, UNL Douglas/Sarpy Extension, 8015 West Center Road, cost is \$15, register and pay by Nov. 6, Send name, address, phone, payment to UNL Extension Douglas/Sarpy County, Attn: name of class, 8015 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE 68124

To list an event or activity in this space, e-mail the particulars to MoValSierraNews@yahoo.com, or mail it to 5170 Leavenworth St., Omaha, Neb.
For more information, call Scott at 981-7819 or Cammy at 551-9480.